

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the subject application as amended herein is respectfully requested.

Election

The Applicant hereby acknowledges the election of the species as embodied in Fig. 2. Should claims be found allowable, it is respectfully requested that the withdrawn claims be reinstated.

Drawings

The Applicant respectfully traverses the objection to Fig. 2, buffer 132 (Not fig. 3A as indicated by the Examiner). Fig. 2 shows how data from the two sides are collected by the buffer. The arrow on the right side of the buffer indicates that this collected data is then provided "for further processing." (See page 11, first full paragraph) Therefore it is respectfully submitted that no correction is required to Fig. 2.

The rejections on the merits

The Examiner has rejected the claims as being anticipated by or obvious in view, Satoh. One important feature that distinguishes the present invention over Satoh is that, as illustrated in Figs. 7-10. the data on the two sides of the disc is partitioned into several zones, with each zone on one side corresponding to a respective zone on the other side. These zones are differentiated by the rotational speed at which the disc is rotated while data is being read. There is nothing in Satoh or any of the other references which discloses the combination of features claimed herein. Accordingly it is respectfully submitted that the subject application is patentable over the prior art.

Respectfully submitted
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